

**HECB Advisory Council Meeting  
@ Highline Community College (8/31/05)**

The meeting was chaired by Roberta Greene and other HEC Board members in attendance were Betti Sheldon, Bill Grinstein, Lance Kissler, Jesus Hernandez, Ethelda Burke and Mike Worthy. College presidents on hand included Lane Rawlins (WSU), Les Purce (TESC), and J. Truman (Perry Technical Institute). Ellen O'Brien Saunders (WTECB) was there, as well as two faculty representatives (Sandra Schroeder and Ruth Windhover). Bobbie May (State Board of Education) was also in attendance.

**Washington Learns Project**

Ann Daley, Executive Director of Washington Learns, gave a brief presentation to the council. Washington Learns is a comprehensive study – it is actually “pre-natal” through higher education. Daley referred to the famous Perry Pre-school Study as evincing the value of collecting and analyzing longitudinal data on student academic performance.

The K-12 committee has a major concern about adequate funding. They have a wary eye on 2008, the year which will feature the largest high school graduating class in state history.

Washington Learns has a 13-member steering committee chaired by Gov. Gregoire herself. Governor Gregoire wants to work with the HEC Board and the institutions of higher education. Experts refer to Washington as a national model for progressive change in education. We are the state others look to as “cutting edge” in many ways.

The discussion included:

- the 2006-12 bulge and the huge dropout rate in the state; the reasons students leave college
- the “age block” that has been institutionalized throughout the system (social promotion) and the need to break out of this model
- Navigation 101 (Franklin Pierce School District) as a program worth replicating in order to improve college participation and student achievement.
- the importance of having parents who know how to navigate the system as a key factor in improving student academic achievement.
- An effort OSPI has under way to put together a longitudinal database that would enable systems to talk to one another.

Roberta Greene, chair of the higher education advisory committee, asked the group to say how they would like the council to work with the Washington Learns Project. The next steering committee meeting will occur on 9/16/05.

## **Transition Math Project**

Bill Moore of the SBCTC is the director of this project. It is a collaborative project that the HECB participates in. SBCTC is the fiscal agent. Placement tests contain the readiness standards for two-year institutions. Big Bend Community College has its own tests, as do other campuses. Faculty members do not know the specifics about what is on the tests. The Stanford Bridge Project is a worthwhile reference on student transitions.

The Transition Math Project is built upon the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). The issue is maintaining skills that are learned in grades 9 and 10.

## **Teacher Preparation**

The question was asked whether there was an appropriate role for the HEC Board in the area of teacher preparation. Pres. Purce said that he believes the HECB has a role in the teacher preparation but does not believe the role is that clear. He said variability among school districts must be considered before taking any action(s).

It was suggested that the board could make a contribution by providing incentives in this field.

One member said it all boils down to math and science. The board should provoke the discussion and quantify the need. One role for the HECB would be to take the ideas that surfaced in the meeting and broadcast them widely. And, promote the status of the colleges of education at each institution so they do not remain second class enterprises. Take a long term approach.